

Amendments to the Claims and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9 and 13 and cancel claims 14 and 15, without prejudice, and add new claim 16, as indicated in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence ~~of a promoter region of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein comprising the nucleotide numbers 2937 to 3776 of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence ~~of a promoter region is any of the following nucleotide sequences (1) to (4) is selected from the group consisting of:~~

(1) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

(2) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 603 to 3871 ~~in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1~~[[,]].

~~(3) a nucleotide sequence of (1) or (2) with deletion, substitution or addition of one or more nucleotides, said nucleotide sequence having an ability of controlling the transcription of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, and~~

~~(4) a nucleotide sequence having an ability of controlling the transcription of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, and being complementary to a nucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide, wherein said polynucleotide hybridizes under a stringent condition to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of (1) or (2).~~

3. (Previously Presented) A plasmid comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1.

4. (Previously Presented) A plasmid comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein at the downstream (3' side) of said polynucleotide, said plasmid contains a polynucleotide of which transcription is controlled by said polynucleotide.

5. (Previously Presented) A plasmid comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein at the downstream (3' side) of said polynucleotide, said plasmid contains a reporter gene of which transcription is controlled by said polynucleotide.

6. (Previously Presented) A transformed cell in which the polynucleotide of claim 1 is introduced.

7. (Previously Presented) A transformed cell in which the plasmid of claim 3 is introduced.

8. (Original) A transformed cell in which the plasmid of claim 5 is introduced.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method for searching a substance having an ability to control signal transduction ~~controlling substance~~ through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, the method comprising:

(1) a first step of contacting the transformed cell of claim 8 with a test substance,

(2) a second step of monitoring the expression amount of ~~a~~the reporter gene or an index value correlated therewith, after the first step,

(3) a third step of evaluating an ability of the ~~above-mentioned test~~ substance to control signal transduction through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, based on a change in the expression amount or index value correlated therewith monitored in the second step, and

(4) a fourth step of selecting ~~a~~the substance having ~~an~~the ability to control signal transduction through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, based on the ~~signal transduction-controlling~~ ability evaluated in the third step.

10. (Withdrawn, Original) A method for evaluating an ability of a substance to control signal transduction through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, comprising

(1) a first step of contacting the transformed cell of claim 8 with a test substance,

(2) a second step of monitoring the expression amount of a reporter gene or an index value correlated therewith, after the first step, and

(3) a third step of evaluating an ability of the above-mentioned substance to control signal transduction through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, based on a change in the expression amount or index value correlated therewith monitored in the second step.

11. (Withdrawn, Original) A method for searching a substance which binds to the polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising

(1) a first step of contacting the polynucleotide of claim 1 with a test substance,

(2) a second step of checking the presence or absence of formation of a complex of the polynucleotide with the test substance, after the first step, and

(3) a third step of selecting a substance which binds to the polynucleotide, based on the analysis result, obtained in the second step, of the presence or absence of formation of a complex.

12. (Withdrawn, Original) A method for purifying a substance which binds to the polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising

(1) a first step of contacting the polynucleotide of claim 1 with a sample to form a complex of the polynucleotide with a substance, wherein said substance is contained in the sample and binds to the polynucleotide, and

(2) a second step of isolating the substance which binds to the polynucleotide, from a formed complex, after the first step.

13. (**Currently Amended**) A kit for screening a signal transduction controlling substance through a promoter of a gene encoding α subunit Gm1 of trimeric G-protein, comprising the transformed cell of claim 8 and a reagent for measuring the expression amount of a the reporter gene or an index value correlated therewith.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 843 to 3871 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(2) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1232 to 3871 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(3) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1989 to 3871 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(4) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2937 to 3871 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(5) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 843 to 3776 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(6) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1232 to 3776 of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(7) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1989 to 3776 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

(8) the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2937 to 3776 of SEQ ID NO: 1.